time has forborne the tariffs for basic & cellular servics with the exception of tariff for rural fixed lines in basic services and roaming charges for cellular services. Thus the TTO provides flexibility to all cellular and WLL service providers to fix their own tariffs within its framework. Both the cellular and WLL operators offer a number of tariff options for their subscribers and these vary in terms of combinations of monthly rentals, call charges and free call allownaces. There are quite a large number of alternatives in each service area and subscriber can choose from among these tariff options depending upon his usage pattern.

(c) TRAI has mandated that the tariffs to be implemented by cellular and WLL operators are to be consistent with the regulatory principle in all respects which, *inter-alia,* include, Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) compliance, non-discrimination and non-predation. It is also mandatory for the service providers to report tariffs to the regulator within 7 days after implementation. The TTO also provides the tariff offered should remain valid for a minimum period of six months from the date of enrolment of the subscriber to that tariff plan. The TTO also envisages that any service provider in a service area can offer upto 25 tariff plans at a given point of time. Thus the Government exercises control on tariff through the above provisions of TTO.

Cyber crimes

2496. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present Information Technology Act, 2000 is inadequate to deal with cyber crimes in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to amend the law immediately;

(c) whether Government are aware that newest cyber logs such as webcam, cell phone, cameras and digicoms are playing havoc in Indian society preferably in schools and colleges; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to play various

loopholes in the law so as to bear cyber logs in Government schools and institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) antl (b) The Information Technology (IT) Act 2000 has necessary provisions to deal with cyber crimes in the country. However, as a result of fast technological developments taking place in the information technology sector and the medium of Internet such statute is needed to harmonise with those developments.

(c) There is rapid technology development in the Information Technology sector and the Internet. The convergence of computers, communications and the content has made it possible to combine several functions in one device and thereby offer affordable multi-purpose gadgets to the clients.

It is through creating awareness and educating the children in schools and colleges and the public, in addition to legislative measures that wrong use of such wonderful devices could be avoided.

(d) Department of Information Technology has set up an Expert Committee to review the IT Act 2000 in the light of the post—IT Act 2000 developments and recommend appropriate amendments to the IT Act, 2000.

Telephone facilities in rural areas

†2497. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fund was set up few years back for accelerating the pace of providing telephone facilities in rural areas by charging five per cent tax on gross.revenue from telephone operators;

(b) if so, the amount deposited in the said fund till December, 2004; and

(c) the average amount deposited annually in this fund during last years and the average amount withdrawn and spent from this fund on telephone facilities in rural areas?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.